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In the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A clothes hanger retaining device for retaining at least one clothes hanger on a clothes pole, the clothes hanger retaining device comprising: [;]

- a) an elongate inverted trough shaped a cover comprising an upper side and a lower side extending to spaced apart first and second ends and front and back edges, wherein with the cover draped over a hook portion of the clothes hanger supported on the clothes pole, the first and second cover ends are adjacent to spaced apart ends of the clothes pole, the front cover edge is adjacent to a terminus of the hanger hook portion, and the back cover edge is adjacent to where the hanger hook portion attaches to a shoulder portion of the hanger;
- b) a first opening in the cover located between the first and second ends thereof and spaced toward the front cover edge from an apex of the cover draped over the clothes hanger on the clothes pole;
- c) a second opening in the cover aligned with the first opening between the first and second ends, but spaced toward the back edge from the apex; and
- d) a strap extending through the first opening and of a length to extend about the clothes pole and through the second opening, wherein with a distal end of the strap extending through the second opening, an inner surface of the distal strap end comprises one of a hook and loop of a hook-and-loop type fastener and an outer surface of a proximal end of the strap residing

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on the upper surface of the cover comprises the other
of the hook and loop to thereby secure the distal end
of the strap to the proximal end thereof means for
~~retaining said cover to a conventional clothes pole~~
~~upon which conventional clothes hangers are hanging,~~
thereby sandwiching the hook portion ~~portions~~ of said
the clothes hanger ~~hangers~~ between said the cover and
said the clothes pole.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) A clothes hanger retaining device according to claim (3) 1, wherein the distal end of the said strap is comprised of substantially ~~of~~ a ~~section of~~ uniform width, ~~further including a~~ with the proximal end being wider than the first opening to secure the strap to the cover section at one extreme shouldered end, such that when said strap is inserted through said slots, said shoulders will abut with said cover.

5. (Currently Amended) A clothes hanger retaining device according to claim 1, wherein the first and second cover ends of said cover are provided with respective flanges that extend inwardly flanged inward toward the clothes pole ~~concave surface of said cover.~~

6. (Currently Amended) A clothes hanger retaining device according to claim 1, wherein said the cover is comprised of

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multiple sections, telescopically engaged with each other whereby the length of ~~said~~ the cover is adjustable.

7. (Currently Amended) A clothes hanger retaining device for retaining at least one clothes hanger on a clothes pole, the clothes hanger retaining device, which comprises: [;]

- a) a cover having comprising an upper side and a lower side extending to first and second spaced apart ends extending to and meeting with front and back edges, wherein the cover is drapable ~~positionable~~ over a generally horizontally oriented pole supporting at least one clothes hanger with the first and second ends adjacent to respective first and second supports for the pole and with the front and back edges residing on opposite sides of the pole; and
- b) an opening in the cover located between the first and second ends thereof and spaced toward either the front or back edge from an apex of the cover draped over the clothes hanger on the clothes pole; and
- c) a securing strap connected to the cover with an inner surface of a distal strap end comprising one of a hook and loop of a hook-and-loop type fastener and an upper surface on the cover comprising the other of the hook and loop, the strap ~~and~~ having a length sufficient to ~~be extendable~~ extend about around a lower side of the pole and then through the opening in ~~be securable to~~ the cover so that the distal end of the strap is securable to the cover, thereby sandwiching the clothes hanger between the cover and the clothes pole.

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8. to 13. (Canceled)

14. (New) The clothes hanger retaining device of claim 7 wherein the strap has a first portion connected to the cover and a second, opposite portion securable to the cover.

15. (New) The clothes hanger retaining device of claim 7 wherein the first end of the strap comprises an enlarged head residing adjacent to the lower side of the cover with strap extending through a third opening in the cover to provide the strap connected to the cover.

16. (New) A clothes hanger retaining device, which comprises:

- a) a first cover portion having first and second spaced apart ends extending to and meeting with front and back edges;
- b) a second cover portion having third and fourth spaced apart ends extending to and meeting with front and back edges, wherein the first and second cover portions are drapable over a generally horizontally oriented pole supporting at least one clothes hanger with the first end of the first cover portion adjacent to a first support for the pole and with the fourth end of the second cover portion adjacent to a second support for the pole and wherein one of the second and third ends of the respective first and second cover portions is overlaid by the other of the second and third ends to provide an overlapping

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relationship for the first and second cover portions at the second and third ends;

- c) aligned first and second openings in the respective first and second cover portions spaced toward the front cover edges from an apex of the cover portions draped over the clothes hanger on the clothes pole;
- d) aligned third and fourth openings in the respective first and second cover portions aligned with the first and second openings between the first and fourth ends, but spaced toward the back edges from the apex; and
- e) a securing strap having a first strap portion connected to at least one of the first and second cover portions and a second opposite strap portion extendable through the first and second openings in the first and second cover portions and of a length to extend about the cloths pole and through the third and fourth openings, wherein with a distal end of the second strap portion extending through the third and fourth openings, an inner surface of the distal strap end comprises one of a hook and loop of a hook-and-loop type fastener and an outer surface of the first strap portion comprises the other of the hook and loop to thereby secure the distal end of the strap to the first strap portion connected to at least one of the first and second cover portions, thereby sandwiching the hook portion of the clothes hanger between the cover and the clothes pole.